and (b) Area Welfare Officers are appointed by the Government for a term of two years from the date of appointment or till the services of the Officers are required by the Government or till the Officer retires or resigns from service whichever is earlier. The duties and functions of Area Welfare Officers which are largely official in nature are performed on an honorary and voluntary basis. Only, in one case, due to mis-representation, one Area Welfare Officer continued beyond his date of retirement. Action has been taken to discontinue his appointment as an Area Welfare Officer.

(c) The Area Welfare Officers are permitted to use office stationery and service postage stamps and are allowed to leave office with permission of the appropriate authority for meeting various civic|police authorities for solving problems of the residents of his area.

Use of lands in Poonch and Rajouri districts for defence purposes

1715. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proprietory and occupancy lands of the inhibitants of Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu and Kashmir is being used for defence purpose for over a quarter century;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) what rent is being paid or is payable category-wise in respect of such lands;

(d) what are the arrears of rent and by when the same are likely to be paid to the land holders; and

(e) whether Government propose to acquire such lands in view of the Supreme Court Judgement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Stoppage of construction of road in Jammu

1716. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of the Road from Gool via Budhal to Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir was taken by the General Reserve Engineering Force in 1980 as the same is of strategic importance for the defence of the area and a sum of Rs. 7.00 crores was spent on it till March, 1980;

(b) whether it is a fact that the General Reserve Engineering Force has stopped the work since 1983 as result the work has come to a standstill; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the work on the said Road for the benefit of the defence and general public in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The road Gool-Mohar-Budhal was approved in March 1978 for construction by Border Roads Organisation. The expenditure incurred upto 31.3.88 was Rs. 830.00 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, certain special repairs were done during 1988-89 and the road was open for traffic.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Recipients of kickbacks paid by M|s. A. B. Bofors

1717. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the action taken so far by Government for finding out the names of recipients of kickbacks paid by M|s. A. B. Bofors in connection with sale of 155 mm Howitzer guns; and

(b) what has been the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) A criminal case has been registered on 22-1-1990 by the CBI. On the request of the Indian authorities, six Swiss Bank Accounts have been frozen by the Swiss authorities on 26-1-1990. A letter rogatory has been given to the Swiss authorities on 9-2-90. Further investigations are in progress.

Rise in the prices of paper for book publishing

1718. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of paper needed for publishing books have increased enormously during the recent years;

(b) whether the said price rises have adversely affected the book publishing industry in India and this fact was adequately brought out at the International Book Fair recently held in Delhi;

(c) whether the matter has been studied by Government; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to encourage book publishing industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) The price of paper has increased by about 40 per cent in the average over the last one and a half years on account of substantial increase in the prices of various inputs that go into production.

Increase in the price of paper is a factor which has adversely affected the publishing industry; and this was brought out in discussions at the various seminars organised during the Ninth World Book Fair, 13—18, February, 1990 held at New Delhi, as was also seen in the prices of books on display.

(d) Subject to ceilings, white printing paper is supplied at subsidised rates for the Education sector for production of School Text Books. The following schemes/ activities are also being undertaken by the National Book Trust, India to encourage Book Publishing Industry;

(i) scheme for the subsidised publication of books;

(ii) an exploratory scheme to encourage private publishers and voluntary agencies to produce reading material for for the continuing education of neo-literates and school drop-outs;

(iii) an exploratory scheme to encourage private publishers and voluntary agencies to produce books for children;

(iv) scheme to set up a National Centre for Children's Literature.

(v) organisation of book fairs, book festivals and National Book Week;

(vi) participation in international book fars to promote export of Indian publications;

(vii) scheme for financial assistance to registered voluntary organisations for holding book exhibitions/book festivals/book fairs to augment book promotional activities and

(viii) Readers'. Club movement.

Foreign visits of investigating officers in connection with Bofors pay-offs

1719. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress have been made by Government since December 28th, 1989